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News Release

TWO MEXICAN NATIONALS SENTENCED FOR SEPARATE CRIMES

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. — Two Mexican nationals were sentenced in federal court yesterday to a total of more than eight years in prison for separate crimes, following investigations by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Marco Antonio Armenta-Mejia, 38, a citizen of Mexico, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Ortrie D. Smith to five years in federal prison without parole.

Armenta-Mejia pleaded guilty Nov. 19 to charges contained in an Aug. 27 federal indictment. He admitted that he possessed and intended to distribute 100 kilograms of marijuana Aug. 15 in Greene County, Mo.

Armenta-Mejia also admitted that he illegally re-entered the United States after having been previously deported following a conviction for an aggravated felony. "Re-entry after deportation" is also a felony. He was found in Greene County Aug. 15 after having been deported following his conviction for possessing a controlled substance with intent to distribute.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Robyn L. McKee, U.S. Attorney's Office, Western District of Missouri.

Josue Martinez-Camacho, 29, a citizen of Mexico, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Ortrie D. Smith to three years and 10 months in federal prison without parole.

Martinez-Camacho pleaded guilty Nov. 19 to illegally re-entering the United States. He admitted that he was in Greene County, Mo., Aug. 10 after having been previously deported. He also pleaded guilty to illegally possessing means of identification belonging to another person on two separate occasions.

Martinez-Camacho was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury Sept. 16 in Kansas City.

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ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.